



CONNECTICUT PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of Joan-Alice Taylor, PT, Psy.D., LPC, FABDA, CBT President, CT Physical Therapy Association

In support of

SB 278, AAC MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS.

Before the Joint Committee on Public Health March 7, 2012

Chairperson Gerratana, Chairperson Ritter, Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Joan-Alice Taylor and I am the President of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association. **I am here today to testify in support of SB 278, AAC MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I have been a practicing physical therapist for forty-three years and in private practice for twenty-nine years. As such, I have seen many changes in the delivery of health care and physical therapy over the years. The proposal before you today seeks to bring the composition of the physical therapy Board of Examiners in line with those changes.

SB 278 would change the makeup of the Physical Therapy Board of Examiners to allow for three physical therapists and two members of the public. This change would make the PT Board consistent with virtually all of the professional licensing boards at the Department of Public Health – that is, with a group of professionals, in conjunction with the public members, holding their peers accountable. Unfortunately, as it exists, physical therapists do not even hold the majority of seats on their own licensing Board.

The current composition of the Board may have made some sense when PT was exclusively delivered with a referral from a physician. With autonomous practice now allowed by state statute, it is difficult to justify keeping a physician on the PT Board without adding one to the numerous other Professional Boards regulated by DPH. Physical Therapists may accept referrals from a long list of other health care professionals, not just physicians, yet none of those ever sought a seat on the PT Board.

I would also like to make one request for a technical correction to the proposal before us, and the existing statute. The Connecticut Physical Therapy Association is a chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, but should be referred to in statute as “The Connecticut Physical Therapy Association.”

Thank-you again for the opportunity to testify before the Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee throughout the session.

Joan-Alice Taylor, P.T., Psy.D., L.P.C., F.A.B.D.A., C.B.T.